

MINUTES

OF THE

NEW-BRUNSWICK

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

SAINT JOHN,

JULY 7th and 8th,

1828.

SAINT JOHN :

PRINTED BY CAMERON AND SEEDS, AT THE OFFICE OF THE WEEKLY
OBSERVER, CORNER OF PRINCE WM. AND CHURCH-STREETS.

1828.

MINUTES, &c.

MONDAY, JULY 7, 1828.

1st. INTRODUCTORY SERMON, by Elder David Harris, from Titus 3d chap. part of verse 8th, "These things are good and profitable unto men."

2d. The Messengers having taken their seats, chose Elder Joseph Crandall, Moderator; Brother Henry Blakslee, Clerk; and Brother James Holman, Assistant Clerk.

3d. Read the letters from the several Churches, Mite and Missionary Societies.

N. B. In the following Table, the names of Ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS: those of Licensed Ministers in *Italics*. Ministers whose names are thus marked (*) were not present. Churches from which we had no information at this Session, are designated (†). Such as have no Pastor, by a dash —.

ACCOUNT

CHURCH

Fredericton...

Waterbury...

Saint John...

†Prince William
1st Wakefield

Norton.....

Nashwalk....
Salisbury....

Sackville, (re-
†Miramichi...
†Madamkewa...
†Douglas....
Oromocto....
Saint George..

Hillsborough..

2d Wakefield.
Woodstock...
New Canaan...

Hopewell.....

†Cardigan....
†Bellisle.....
Saint Martin..

ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Added.		Removed.....	Dismissed.....	Excluded.....	Died.....	Total No. of Members.
		By Letter..	By Baptism.					
Fredericton.....	DAVID HARRIS, } Wm. S. Estey, } Zebulon Currie, }		2	7			1	49
Waterbury.....	JOHN MASTERS, } Reuben Hobin, }		5			4	1	126
Saint John.....	Thomas Pettingell, } Henry Blakslee, } James Holman, }		2	4		4	1	127
+Prince William.....	.....							46
1st Wakefield.....	.....							28
Norton.....	Daniel Palmer, } FRANCIS PICKLE, } Enoch Groom, }		1		2		1	37
Nashwalk.....	.....					1	1	21
Salisbury.....	JOSEPH CRANDALL } James Blakeney, } Martin Wortman, }		14	30	1			95
Sackville, (re-organized)	.....							60
+Miramichi.....	.....							95
+Madamkewey.....	.....							23
+Douglas.....	.....							18
Oromocto.....	.....							27
Saint George.....	.....							14
Hillsborough.....	E. Seely, } JAMES WALLACE, } *Joseph Steeves, } *Isaac Steeves, }					2	4	65
2d Wakefield.....	*THOMAS MAGEE, ..		3		1	1	1	12
Woodstock.....	.....		1					15
New Canaan.....	Daniel Perry, } Robert Veith, }				3	1	1	45
Hopewell.....	.....		3		1			66
+Cardigan.....	.....							44
+Bellisle.....	.....							40
Saint Martins.....							95
	Wm. Bradshaw, } *Eben. Vaughan, } George Brown, } Jacob Brown, }	17	47					

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ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Added.		Removed.....	Dismissed.....	Excluded.....	Died.....	Total No. of Members.
		Restored.....	By Letter..					
1st Hampton.....	John M'Cready, } Joseph Pickle, }							16
2d Hampton.....	Ammon Fowler, } Jesse Taber, }		5		1		1	42
Wickham.....	*Charles Lewis, } Jos. C. Skinner, }							25
Sussex Vale.....	Titus Stone, } WILLIAM SEARS, }					1		14
Dorchester.....	Israel Styles, }		2					17
+Rushagonish.....	.....							26
Buctouche.....	William Sears,.....		23					23
Moncton.....	Andrew Steeves,....		30					30
		17	3140	738	16	13	1341	

N. B. This Session were added the two last Churches.

4th. Adjourned until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

5th. Met pursuant to adjournment, for dispatch of business.

6th. After Prayer, chose Brothers John Masters, F. Pickle, W. Sears, E. Trask, and C. Tupper, a Committee to inspect the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

7th. Voted, that the Missionary Board, in cases of death or resignation of any of its Members, have power to make choice of other judicious Brethren to fill up the vacancy.

8th. Voted, that the Members of the Missionary Board be continued in office for the ensuing year; and that the following Brethren be chosen to act in conjunction with said Board:—James Wallace, Amos Dow, Nathan Cleaveland, Ammon Fowler, John M'Cready, Wm. Bradshaw, Thomas Prince, James E. Davis, James Banzer, George Boon, Israel Smith, E. Seely, Titus Stone,

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Charles Lewis, Joseph C. Skinner, — Smith, Daniel Perry, and John Sharp.

9th. Voted, that the above-named Brethren be requested to collect monies in aid of the Missionary cause, and transmit the same to the Treasurer at Saint John.

10th. Read a Letter from the Secretary of the Female Mite Society at Saint John ; and from the Female Mite Society held at Hampton.

11th. Received communications from Corresponding Associations, to-wit :

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Minutes.</i>
Lincoln,	ENOS TRASK,	Minutes.
Eastern Maine,	ENOS TRASK,	Minutes.
Bowdoinham,	_____	_____
Cumberland,	_____	_____
Nova-Scotia,	CHARLES TUPPER,	Minutes.

12th. That this Association gratefully acknowledge having received by the hands of Brother Gilbert Spurr the sum of £3 : 8 : 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ —a remittance from Mrs. Nancy Masters, Secretary of the Female Mite Society, lately formed at Woodstock, in aid of Missions.

13th. Adjourned until 9 o'clock To-morrow morning. Preaching in the evening, at 8 o'clock, by the Rev. J. Tinson, Baptist Missionary from Kingston, (Jamaica.)

TUESDAY, JULY 8.

Prayer Meeting at 6 o'clock, A. M.

14th. Met at 9 o'clock, agreeable to appointment, and after Singing and Prayer, attended to business.

15th. Voted, to accept the Circular and Corresponding Letters, and that the same be printed in the Minutes.

16th. Voted, that the correspondence between our Sister Associations in the United States, be continued.

17th. Appointed Elder Gilbert Spurr, Messenger to Sister Associations in the State of Maine ; in case of failure, Elder David Harris ; and Elder William Sears, to Nova-Scotia ; in case of failure, Elder Francis Pickle :

Excluded	Members.	Total No. of
		16
1		42
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That ten pounds be given to the former, and four pounds five shillings to the latter, to defray expences, to be paid out of the general fund; and in future it is earnestly recommended to the Sister Churches, to provide for the same.

18th. Voted, that our next Association be held in the Baptist Meeting House, in the Parish of Canning, (Waterbury,) on the third Wednesday after the 20th June, 1829.

19th. That Elder William Sears preach the Introductory Sermon; in case of failure, Elder James Wallace; That Elder David Harris write the Circular, and Elder Gilbert Spurr, the Corresponding Letter.

20th. That Elders Crandall, Masters, and Harris, be a Committee to prepare Rules, &c. for the conducting the business of the Association, to be submitted the next Session.

21st. That the thanks of this Association be given to the Female Mite Societies throughout the Province.

22d. That Fasting and Prayer be still recommended to be continued on the days and times as heretofore, as also the Monthly Missionary Prayer Meeting.

23d. That a note be inserted in the Minutes to the following effect, to-wit:—That the *contributions* made in the Churches are confined solely for these purposes, viz. for printing of the Minutes; Missionary purposes; and to defray the expences of the Messengers to Sister Associations.

24th. That Brother Geo. A. Garrison superintend the printing of the Minutes, and that 500 copies be printed.

25th. Voted, that the Church at Sackville stand upon the Minutes as re-organized.

26th. Voted, that as Brother Joshua Tinson, a Baptist Missionary from Kingston, Jamaica, has presented to us an authentic statement respecting the need of aid to liquidate the debt on the Baptist Meeting House in Kingston, which has been built for the accommodation of the poor colored people in that place, that we recommend the case to all benevolent persons, and that the Moderator and Clerk give Brother Tinson a certificate of our approbation of the object.

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27th. That the Association acknowledge the very hospitable manner in which they have been received by the brethren and friends of Saint John, N. B.

28th. Appointed a Committee to make enquiry respecting the most proper and effectual way of obtaining our right to solemnize Marriage.

The business of the Association being finished, the Members made preparations for their departure, fully convinced that the "GREAT HEAD OF THE CHURCH" had been with them throughout the whole of the Session, and that GOD the HOLY SPIRIT is about to shed abroad His benign influence, and bless his ZION with an increase of SAINTS.

P. S. The General Meeting will take place in Norton Meeting House, on the first Saturday in October next; and the Ministering Brethren are particularly invited to attend.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE NEW-BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Met at SAINT JOHN, July 7, 1828, send Christian Salutation to the respective Churches they represent.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHERN—

NEXT to the declarative glory of our adorable Redeemer, your growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, together with the advancement of his cause in general, and particularly within the limits of the Churches over which the Holy Ghost has made us overseers, is that exalted motive which calls into exercise the finest feelings and most earnest desires of our souls.

For this we preach, for this we pray,
And wear the toilsome hours away.

And as it hath pleased the all-wise and most beneficent Jehovah to unite the promotion of his declarative and eternal glory, with the salvation of poor lost and helpless sinners, we feel it our indispensable duty, in this our Annual Address, to call your attention, and to stir up your pure minds, to the careful, prayerful, and unremitting use of the Holy Scriptures as the only direct and efficient means, in the hand of the Holy Spirit, of promoting and establishing the spiritual comfort of the children of God, and preparing their minds for usefulness both in the Church of Christ, and in the World. The word of God, and especially that part of it which is revealed in the New Covenant, or New Testament, contains not only the Gospel of the Son of God, but also the Laws of his Kingdom. How infinitely necessary then, that we who are his professed Children, and Subjects, and who are so immediately engaged in the momentous concerns of his Kingdom, should be particular in searching the Scriptures; for in them we know we have Eternal Life, and these are they that testify of Jesus Christ, who is the head over all things to his Church which is his Body, prepared and given him by Election of the Father before the world was. From which Elect Body not one member can possibly be taken away; for none shall pluck them out of his hands, since he hath redeemed them unto God by his blood; in consequence of which every chosen Member of Christ shall in due time be actually united to him by effectual calling, and by partaking of his divine Nature, and by his Almighty Power they shall be kept through faith unto Salvation. Suffer us, Dear Brethren, to repeat the all-important injunction, *Search the Scriptures*, both for principle and practice. For as children will naturally bear the image of their parents, so will our practical duties bear the image of those principles which begat them. If a man is legal in prin-

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ciple his religious performances will neither glorify God nor benefit himself, while on the other hand, if his principles are evangelical or scriptural, his soul is united within him under conscious unworthiness, and he views by faith in the Name of Jesus a combination of the Divine Attributes. He discovers that Jesus is made of God unto him complete and Eternal Salvation. Here he sees wisdom sufficient to make him wise unto Salvation—here he discovers righteousness sufficient to justify him from all his sins of nature and practice, and to present him spotless before the Throne of Infinite Purity—Sanctification to make him meet for the participation and enjoyment of the inheritance of the Saints in light—here he views, with wonder and admiration, the price that was paid on Calvary's Mount to Redeem his Soul from Hell, and his Body from Corruption, that they might be put in the full possession of that Heavenly Country where the Inhabitants shall not say, I am Sick. If the word of God is the window through which the believer can gaze upon the King in his beauty, and call the land of God his own, being made secure by two immutable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, ought not much of our time to be taken up in reading, meditating upon, and inwardly digesting its sound truths?—Perhaps you may say, we love the Bible and wish to read it as often as opportunities permit, and think we understand it as well as our Neighbours; all this we are willing to admit, rather do we wish to chide; but Brethren, is there not New Gospel Ground to explore that has never yet been trod down by us? are there not flowers growing in the Gospel Field that have never yet been plucked, and may there not be some evils among us, which nothing but prayerful and strict attention to the word of God is able to remedy? and may there not be some errors fostered, which nothing but humble conscientious attention to the light that shines in the word of the Gospel is able to detect and to eradicate? in short if we can say with that Holy Apostle Paul, I have not yet attained, neither am I yet made perfect; let us then obey the injunction of Heaven by that same holy man, and leave the things that are behind and press on to those that are before—let us take up our Bibles as if it was the first time, and looking up to Heaven for assistance, let us carefully, and prayerfully examine every sentence, and let us be determined by the help of the Holy Spirit to put in practice all that God has enjoined upon us. *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for Reproof, for Instruction, and correction in Righteousness.* All other duties will avail us but little, if the word of God is neglected or attended to only at leisure, or by the bye. Let us not then put that last which should be first. If we do, we shall feel the consequence; for God will not be supplicated when his revealed Authority is trampled upon, or neglected. And how shall a young man cleanse his way but by taking heed thereto according to God's word? The Holy Spirit when delivering his mind and will to his Church, by his Apostle, compares his word to the most keen piercing and deadly weapon, thus intimating that although it is so highly important that the whole Spiritual man be healthy and vigorous through the indwelling and lively exercise of every grace of the Divine Spirit, and perfectly equipt with every piece of armour for defence, yet he cannot inflict wounds and death upon his Spi-

ritual foes without the unremitting use of the all-conquering weapon, *the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*. Let us take for example the man after God's own heart, who in the space of one Psalm mentions the word of God more than one hundred and seventy times, and who made it a light to his feet and a lamp to his path—let us not only put it into the hands of our children, and those committed to our care, but by teaching them its Heavenly nature and incalculable use as much as in us lies, imprint its sacred contents upon their memories and entreat God to to implant it in their hearts. It is recorded of that humble and persecuted people that dwelt alone and was not reckoned among the Nations, (the Waldenses) that their children were much of their time employed in committing to memory chapters out of every book in the Bible, and that it was not uncommon for them to have the whole of the New Testament by rote, together with the Psalms of David, and other parts of the Old Testament—let us go and do likewise. Do we complain for want of Spiritual health?—let us enquire whether we have attended to the prescriptions of our great Family Physician, Jesus Christ, “*Enter into thy closet and pray to thy Father which is in Heaven!*” Are we anxiously desiring the Salvation of those who are ungodly around us, and wishing to see the borders of Zion enlarged with converts from our own families and those of our neighbours—let us then not forget that our gracious God condescends to work by means, and where shall we find those means but within the walls of his Church—let us ask ourselves the question, are we using those means to the utmost of our ability—is there not a possibility that the word of God by the mouth of the Apostle James, 4 chap. is too applicable to us in this case—are we following the examples and obeying the command of God's word by reading, praying, and setting apart a portion of every day for the worship of God in our families, and are we with our families never absent from the House of God, and the Ordinances of the Gospel? If we are, we trample on God's word, and grieve his spirit—Are we also attending to, and putting in force the laws of the King of Zion, by withdrawing from every one that walks disorderly? The purity of the Church is as much to be sought after as its advancement—indeed it cannot really be advanced but in righteousness; hence is that saying of our blessed Saviour, *Seek first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness*. We need not expect to enjoy peace and prosperity in our Souls, nor harmony and growth in the Church, if we are negligent in our obedience to the word of God. To expect this, would be to separate between truth and faithfulness; but what exceeding great and precious promises are found in the word of God to the faithful—to him that overcometh—to him that doeth his commandments. The Church of Jesus Christ should be the best regulated Society on earth, and that because of the spirituality of her subjects, and the holiness of her Laws; and one reason, it may be, why we experience more inconveniencies than otherwise we should, is because of deviating from the primitive order, in not setting apart by the imposition of hands a sufficient number of Deacons, and committing to them the sole management of the temporal affairs of the Church. While we have great cause to rejoice in God for the ingathering of precious souls to himself, in various parts of the world—let us not forget to do our part in the good work, by contributing in aid of Missionary and

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Bible Societies, and praying the Lord of the harvest to send forth more labourers into his harvest, and when he sends them forth, let us not be the first to injure them either by lifting them up with flattery, or casting them down by neglect. The best way of shewing your love to your Minister, is not by words, but by deeds. While he is piously and faithfully discharging his duty to you as a Pastor, he expects your respect and affection, together with a comfortable support. Let him not be disappointed, but let him know what you mean to give, and be punctual in your performance; and may God who is able to make all grace abound toward you, fill your hearts with love, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*THE NEW-BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the Association
with whom they correspond in the Bonds of Affection.*

BELOVED BRETHREN—

WE are once more made to rejoice on hearing from you, through your Messengers and Minutes, and would rejoice with you in the prospect of the extension of Immanuel's Kingdom, and would join with you in praise and thanksgiving, for the abundant showers of grace, particularly in the United States, and these Provinces. Surely it is the Lord's doings, and marvellous in our eyes. Since God has promised that the people shall be gathered to Shiloh, we may rest assured that Men shall be blessed in him—all nations shall call him blessed, and blessed be his glorious name for ever and ever.

WHEN we look back a few years, when there was no Baptist Association in this, or the adjoining Province of Nova Scotia, and now see that we have become two bands, what reason have we to be humble, and to manifest more of the Spirit of the Gospel of the meek and lowly Saviour, remembering the command, "little children love one another"; then would our whole body be full of light. This treasure we need in all our movements through life, especially in our Associations, lest we should hurt the oil and the wine, contrary to the command, not to offend a weak brother for whom Christ died.

WE rejoice that our meeting has been owned of God, and that union of sentiment prevails in our body. You will learn from our Minutes that God is gathering in his Elect: that some of our Churches have shared largely in the outpouring of his Spirit.

WE are thankful for the kind disposition which you manifest toward us, in continuing your Messengers and Minutes, by which we have been refreshed, and we pray that the Great Head of the Church may own and bless you. Amen.

JOSEPH CRANDALL, *Moderator,*
HENRY BLAKSLEE, *Clerk,*
JAMES HOLMAN, *Assistant Clerk.*